



ADVOCACY ALERT



Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

September 4, 2003

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MARK UP FAITH-BASED BILL TOMORROW

URGE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN SOCIAL SERVICE BLOCK GRANT FUNDING DURING THE MARK-UP

For over 5 years, states have faced over \$1 billion in cuts to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), which provides critical services to state and local child welfare systems, older adults, persons with disabilities, and families. Due to extended budget crises, states can not be expected to make up the federal cuts to services for our most vulnerable Americans.

Earlier this year the Senate passed the Charity Aid, Recovery and Empowerment Act (CARE) S. 476, which included \$1.375 billion new funds in the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) over the next two fiscal years. This funding would bring SSBG back up to its previously authorized level of \$2.8 billion in 2004. A similar bill, H.R. 7, the Charitable Giving Act was introduced in the House and is scheduled to be mark-up this Friday (9.5) by the House Ways and Means Committee. However, unlike the Senate CARE Act, **H.R. 7 does not include any additional funding for SSBG.**

There are efforts underway by key members of the committee to include additional SSBG funding in the bill and they need our support. For more information on SSBG, see the attached n4a-CAP fact sheet.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

If your Representative is a member of the Ways and Means Committee (see list below) ASK them make sure H.R. 7, The Charitable Giving Act, includes the restoration of the Social Services Block Grant to \$2.8 billion. Please use the attached fact sheet to explain the critical nature of SSBG funds in your state.

UPDATE ON OAA APPROPRIATIONS

The Senate returned from summer recess on Tuesday and immediately began floor debate on the Fiscal Year 2004 (FY 04) Appropriations measure for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. Although we worked to have an amendment on the Senate floor, at this point it appears that the bill will move forward with only the \$3 million increase in congregate meals passed by the Appropriations Committee. Key legislators have indicated that the best opportunity to seek increases in the FY 04 appropriations is during the House and Senate conference to resolve the differences in the separate bills. The House-passed bill includes a higher overall increase in funding, including a \$13 million increase in the National Family Caregiver Support Program and a \$5.5 million increase in congregate meals. n4a and CAP, in coordination with other national aging groups will be focusing advocacy efforts on conference committee activities.

Ways and Means Committee Members:

Republicans

	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
Bill Thomas, CA Chairman	202-225-2915	http://billthomas.house.gov/Contact.asp
Philip Crane, IL	202-225-3711	www.house.gov/writerep/
E. Clay Shaw Jr., FL	202-225-3026	www.house.gov/shaw/contact/zipauth.html
Nancy Johnson, CT	202-225-4476	www.house.gov/nancyjohnson/zipauth.htm
Wally Herger, CA	202-225-3076	www.house.gov/writerep/
Jim McCrery, LA	202-225-2777	http://mccrery.house.gov/contact.asp
Dave Camp, MI	202-225-3561	www.house.gov/camp/writerep.asp
Jim Ramstad, MN	202-225-2871	mn03@mail.house.gov
Jim Nussle, IA	202-225-2911	www.house.gov/writerep/
Sam Johnson, TX	202-225-4201	www.samjohnson.house.gov/IMA/get_address.htm
Jennifer Dunn, WA	202-225-7761	www.house.gov/dunn/pr/contacts.htm
Mac Collins, GA	202-225-5901	www.house.gov/maccollins/authen.html
Rob Portman, OH	202-225-3164	www.house.gov/portman/contactform.htm
Phil English, PA	202-225-5406	www.house.gov/english/zipauth.htm
J.D. Hayworth, AZ	202-225-2190	www.house.gov/hayworth/messageform.htm
Jerry Weller, IL	202-225-3635	www.house.gov/formweller/formweller/zipauth.htm
Kenny Hulshof, MO	202-225-2956	www.house.gov/writerep/
Scott McInnis, CO	202-225-4761	www.house.gov/writerep/
Ron Lewis, KY	202-225-3501	www.house.gov/writerep/
Mark Foley, FL	202-225-5792	www.house.gov/foley/mail.htm
Kevin Brady, TX	202-225-4901	rep.brady@mail.house.gov
Paul Ryan, WI	202-225-3031	www.house.gov/ryan/email.htm
Eric Cantor, VA	202-225-2815	http://cantor.house.gov/email/index.htm

Democrats

Charles Rangel, NY Ranking	202-225-4365	www.house.gov/rangel/contact.shtml
Fortney Pete Stark, CA	202-225-5065	www.house.gov/stark/contact/index.htm
Robert Matsui, CA	202-225-7163	www.house.gov/matsui/contact.html
Sander Levin, MI	202-225-4961	www.house.gov/levin/zipauth.htm
Benjamin Cardin, MD	202-225-4016	rep.cardin@mail.house.gov
Jim McDermott, WA	202-225-3106	www.house.gov/mcdermott/contact2.html
Gerald Kleczka, WI	202-225-4572	www.house.gov/kleczka/email.htm
John Lewis, GA	202-225-3801	www.house.gov/johnlewis/contact.html
Richard Neal, MA	202-225-5601	www.house.gov/writerep/
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John Tanner, TN	202-225-4714	www.house.gov/writerep/
Xavier Becerra, CA	202-225-6235	www.house.gov/becerra/zipauth.html
Lloyd Doggett, TX	202-225-4865	www.house.gov/writerep/
Earl Pomeroy, ND	202-225-2611	www.house.gov/pomeroy/messageform1.htm
Max Sandlin, TX	202-225-3035	www.house.gov/writerep/
Stephanie Tubbs Jones, OH	202-225-7032	www.house.gov/tubbsjones/contact.htm

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT **TITLE XX, SOCIAL SECURITY ACT**

N4A-CAP POLICY POSITIONS

- 1. Restore the authorization level for SSBG to \$2.8 billion.**
- 2. Restore state ability to transfer up to 10% of TANF funds into SSBG.**
- 3. Preserve the flexible block grant structure of the program.**

SSBG Benefits the Most Needy

Title XX of the Social Security Act, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), provides flexible funding to allow states to provide a wide range of critical services to low-income and vulnerable older adults, persons with disabilities, and children and families. For over twenty-five years communities nationwide have maximized the flexibility of SSBG funds to address service gaps and leverage additional resources. Programs most frequently supported by SSBG include child care, child welfare, drug abuse prevention and treatment activities, elder care, home and community-based services, employment services, and services for persons with disabilities.

Services Provided for Older Adults

Each year, SSBG helps approximately 14 million individuals. According to the SSBG Program Annual Report in 2000, over 870,000 older Americans and over 1.4 million persons with disabilities benefited from SSBG. Services provided for older adults under the SSBG include home care, protective services to prevent abuse and neglect, congregate and home-delivered meals, adult day care, case management, legal services and transportation. SSBG-funded services enhance the ability of older adults to remain independent and live where they prefer, their homes and communities.

Funding History

The authorized funding level established in the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, effective through 2002, was \$2.38 billion. However, since then SSBG cuts have dramatically reduced funding for critical services in local communities. In FY 2000, budget negotiators reduced SSBG appropriations to \$1.775 billion, a decline of 37 percent from its 1995 level of \$2.8 billion. In FY 2002, funding for SSBG was reduced to \$1.7 billion to offset increases to funding priorities under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), and SSBG received flat funding in FY 2003.

These severe cuts amounting to over a billion dollars have substantially reduced states' ability to provide services to vulnerable populations. The aging population is growing rapidly, and the need for home and community-based care for older adults is burgeoning. Cuts to services that provide such care is short sighted and will result in increased spending in other federal programs and other more expensive alternatives. Despite these facts, the Administration's FY 2004 budget request would continue flat funding for SSBG at \$1.7 billion.